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## The Inkwell

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# Have a great Spring Break! The Inkwell returns to the stands on March 25.

Established in 1935

# THE INKWELL

Week of March 11, 2010

theinkwellonline.com

Volume 79, Issue 9

## AASU finds alternatives as USG budget cuts continue to hit

By F. Reese Shellman III and  
Brad Curran  
Staff Reporters

The state legislature notified the Georgia Board of Regents (BoR) on Feb. 25 that in order to make up for projected shortfalls in next year's state budget, they must make cuts across the University System of Georgia (USG). For the fiscal year of 2011, Georgia is looking at a loss as large as \$1.1 billion.

Projected cuts were requested by the BoR from the individual institutions to be submitted the following week, causing a rush to have information compiled and ready. The cuts from

the USG total \$300 million. For AASU, this translates into a \$5.2 million in a yearly budget of only \$32 million.

Dr. Linda Bleicken, president of AASU, called a meeting for faculty and staff on Feb. 26.

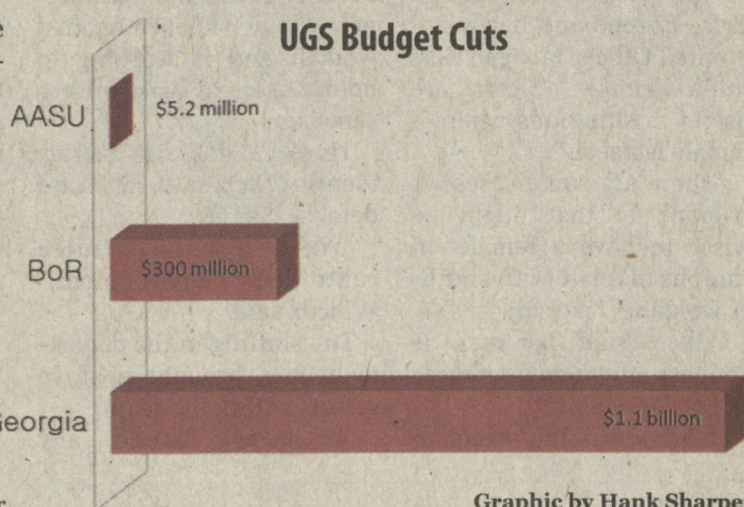
She stressed that the cuts were mandated by the legislature and not simply from the BoR, which was working to solve the issue as best it could.

Bleicken pointed out that AASU was giving proportionally the same amount as other institutions in the system.

Measures to deal with the

shortfall at AASU include closing the satellite campuses in Liberty County and Brunswick, terminating 73 full-time faculty and staff and discontinuing five departments. The budget for Student Affairs will likely be cut by a quarter of a million dollars.

"I think the legislatures should make education a higher priority than they currently are," said Political Science Professor Dr. Daniel Skidmore-Hess. "There have been cuts for the last four budgets in a row, but the University System has always taken a big-



ger cut."

Roughly 1,200 students will either have to change majors or leave. Class sizes are slated to increase, while

class frequency would decrease to deal with faculty reduction. With a drop in course frequency, the time

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## Check Inside

**Editorial: Cramming it down their throats**

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## Correction:

To offer assistance in the search for Bryce Tarter, please call (910) 232-1687. The area code was incorrectly listed in a previous edition.

## Campus Briefs

### Housing renewal

Returning students who wish to stay on campus for the 2010-11 academic year, please note applications are due on March 22, by 5 p.m.

There is no application fee for returning residents.

Students who renew their housing agreement and cancel prior to April 16 will be subject to a \$250 cancellation fee.

Renewal cancellation will not be accepted after April 16.

Any room that is not renewed by March 20 may be assigned to another student for the 2010-11 year.

If students do not renew by this day, they will not be guaranteed housing.

Housing is offering a two-semester housing agreement in only University Terrace 1 for upper-class students.

Renewal in a student's current apartment may not be possible. If this is the case, students will be placed in a similar unit. University Housing will consolidate students when necessary.

Community selection preferences will take priority over roommate preferences, so students should make sure that roommates who request each other also request the same community.

For more information or questions call University Housing at 344-2940 or e-mail housing@mail.armstrong.edu.

### Spring Break

March 15-19 marks Spring Break.

The Student Recreation Center will open March 15-18 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., but will be closed on Friday, March 19.

Lane Library will also be open on March 15-18 but closed on March 19.

Pirate Food Court and The Daily Perk will be closed but will reopen on March 22nd.

Quiznos will also be closed but will reopen on March 22.

## Crime Blotter Battery, theft keep UPD busy

By Stuart Grosse  
Staff Reporter

Officers from the University Police Department (UPD) were dispatched to Compass Point room 6202 on Feb. 22 following reports of a fight on campus at 5:23 p.m.

When they arrived on scene, officers met the victim and witnesses, but the other person involved in the fight had already left the scene.

Officers took statements from the witnesses and the victim brought the victim to UPD HQ to interview her and take a written statement. Police are still investigating the incident.

Officer Dion DeRoia of the UPD was patrolling in the Student Recreation Center (SRC) when he was approached by SRC staffers regarding the disappearance of their golf cart battery charger on Feb. 11, at 2:30 p.m.

Officer DeRoia spoke with the Operations Assistant at the SRC, who stated that the charger had last been seen on Feb. 3. Police are investigating the matter.

## Veterans-cum-students learn to adapt to civilian life

By Aaron Feizet  
Staff Reporter

There are many student groups at AASU, based on everything from ethnic and ideological similarities to shared interests and hobbies. The military veterans who attend AASU compose one such group of individuals who are linked by shared experiences, and although they have no on-campus organization to speak of, there's an undeniable fraternity they seem to share with one another.

Daniel Erickson, an Army veteran who was discharged in 2007 due to knee injuries, shares what life has been like as a student at AASU.

"The Army widened my horizons, helped me find myself, and it's great to bring that focus to college... Back in high school I wasn't a very good student, but after staying up for days at a time in a combat zone, studying for a few hours every day seems much less difficult... The military was a fun thing to do for a while, and I miss it sometimes, but there's a future for me here



Left: Erickson and his team were dropped onto a mountain in Afghanistan via helicopter and spent close to a month doing a mission there in 2004. Right: Erickson's squad came across a local with a hurt ankle, and they took a break while the medic looked at him in 2004.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Erickson

at college," Erickson said.

Erickson said though there were no extra efforts from AASU to make him welcome, Savannah made him feel right at home.

"The town itself is welcoming though, and Armstrong Atlantic [is] really moderate in its opinions, and I wouldn't expect them to pick sides... Even the fact that we don't have to pay tuition isn't really preferential treatment, since in reality the Army was like a

reverse student loan; we paid for college with four years of our lives before going there," Erickson said.

Steven Morrissey, another Army veteran who was discharged in 2008 due to a battlefield injury, discussed how he has adapted to civilian life at AASU.

"There are a lot of obvious differences, but also some similarities between the two. Being disciplined in the Army, doing assignments and not procrastinating, turned

out to be pretty good habits in college too... It seems like most of the people I hang out with or start conversations with tend to be military; it's not that they wear special badges or anything, but they have a way of holding themselves that stands out to me. I guess it's easier to make a connection because we've gone through a lot of the same things," Morrissey said.

## SGA hosts guest speaker

By Carmen Singleton  
News Editor  
news.inkwell@gmail.com

The Student Government Association (SGA) discussed budget cuts, appointed a new senate whip and took a group photo at its March 8 meeting.

Guest speaker Kelly Kessinger spoke about the budget cuts and wanted to know what SGA was planning about the issue.

Sen. Ty Slater said SGA will further its initiatives of educating students to be vocal through calling their legislature, e-mails, starting Facebook groups and protesting after Spring Break.

Kessinger informed the organization of the Silent Protest on Thursday, March 11, to spread awareness about the proposed budget cuts.

Students and faculty will wear masks with the number '907' on the front because it will symbolize that students will become just another '907' number if these cuts are passed.

The protest will be at the

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## On-campus residents required to participate in new meal plan option

By Joseph Prouse  
and Carmen Singleton  
Staff Reporter and News Editor  
news.inkwell@gmail.com

University Housing has required all students to purchase a \$600 meal plan per semester for the 2010-11 academic year.

According to the University Housing Renewal Application, all students who live in on-campus apartments will be required to purchase the 5 meal per week (all-you-care-to-eat) plan which includes \$150 Dining Dollars for fall and spring semester.

The application did not specify whether freshmen are included.

The meal plan will not be mandatory for the summer.

Students can use the meal plan at the Daily Perk and Quiznos at the meal equivalency rate.

Dining Dollars can be used at the new Convenience Store (located in the new AASU Student Union), the Daily Perk or Quiznos.

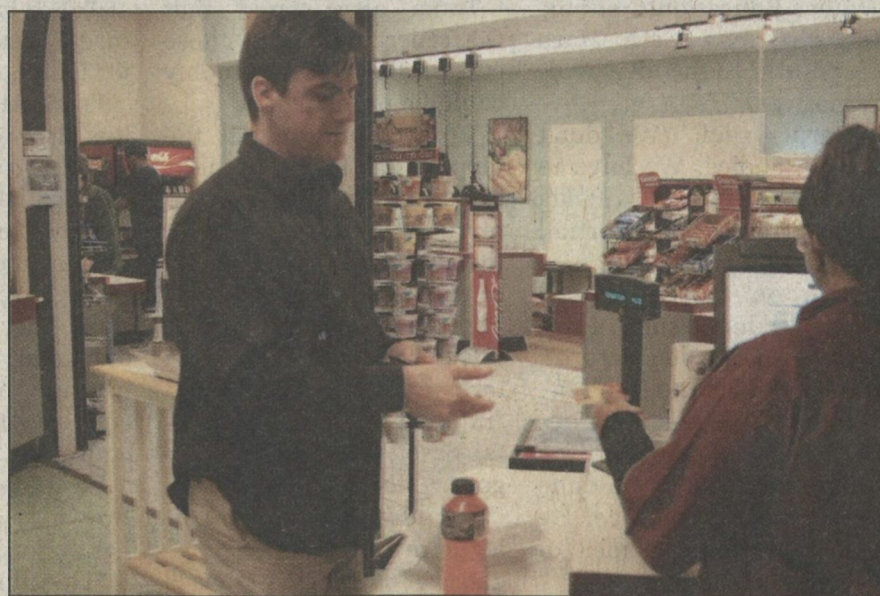
The application reported

that the five meals per week (in seven day increments) plan will not roll over.

Students must eat the five meals within each week, and the \$150 Dining Dollars must be spent within the semester they are purchased.

Sophomore Amelia Nixon disapproves of the new requirement.

"I think the new meal plan is ridiculous. I already disapprove of requiring us to pay \$400 per semester although we have a full kitchen, but to raise it up to \$600 is disgusting. Apart from the cost, students are allotted only five meals per week with no 'roll over.' Food is expensive in the cafeteria and yes \$400 goes quick with these



Computer science major Russell Smith buys food and a drink from cafeteria with his Pirate card. Russell still has over 50 percent left on his card and says he is willing to spend it all by offering food to his friends.

costs, but not every student needs the entire amount. I think the meal plan raises are a way for the university to take more money from students," Nixon said.

Repeated attempts were made to interview University Housing and Financial Aid, but both declined to speak The Inkwell.

### The Galley

Based on the application, the opening of the new AASU Student Union will provide more options for students who live on campus.

The Galley, which will be

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NEWS

**March 15-19:** Spring Break  
**March 22:** SGA meeting in Solms Hall 108 from noon-1 p.m.  
Cookout for the Cause in Shearouse Plaza from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
HOLA Census Service Center in Solms Hall 110 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Relay for Life meeting in Science Center 1402 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
**March 24:** University Curriculum meeting in University Hall 282 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.  
LASO Latino Roundtable in University Hall 156 from 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

UPD hires female officers to represent female population on campus

By Kylie Horn  
Staff Reporter

The University Police Department (UPD) is undergoing internal departmental changes in hopes of bettering the safety and comfort of the student body.

UPD is struggling with the ratio of male to female officers of 9:2. With the current officers in training, the department expects to have four female officers by the summer, raising the percentage of female officers to 33 percent.

"It is nice to have young women's perspective," said Chief Willcox, as he thinks the police department can "always do better."

Since AASU is a female

dominated school by close to 70 percent, Willcox said it is important that the female students have someone they may better relate to, especially in personal situations.

"[This is] the beginning of the future of the police department," Willcox said.

First UPD female Officer Erica Coreno and newly appointed Officer Meagan Zike think female officers are useful in situations where a female is needed.

"There are some cases we respond to that might be wiser to have a female on campus to relate with another woman," Zike said.

Willcox said that there is at least one female officer working per shift.

"I think it is important to

see a few more females in the department. By nature, most feel more inclined to cooperate if they feel more at ease," Zike said.

Willcox said the police department needs to be more sensitive.

The department has also been increasing awareness about violence against women and is working to hold classes at least once a semester.

They include fire safety, identity theft and rape and defense classes.

"We have a much more controlled environment," Willcox said.

The shifting in the department has brought positive results within the team.

"I haven't found any

friendships like this outside the department you rely heavily on each other and might [have to] trust each other with your lives," Zike said.

The transition is moving smoothly as expected.

"Everybody is pretty welcoming and helpful around here," Zike said.

Willcox said he hopes to have a female-dominated department to better fit the demographics of the school.

"We can plan for the future for what we want our services to be. If you see what needs to be done, shouldn't you do it?" Willcox said.

HOLA speaker encourages exploration of arts

By Kylie Horn  
Staff Reporter

At the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong (HOLA) Lunch & Learn on March 3, professional storyteller and 10-year Savannah resident, J'Miah Nabawi, shared personal advice and testimony to students while they grabbed lunch.

Nabawi stumbled upon his niche at a very late stage in life. He worked as an electrician, a career he planned on committing his life to, but then was offered a storytelling job while searching for part-time work.

"I was looking for a job painting houses. I did not expect to like it, but I did it and I had fun. I love those kind of surprises," Nabawi said. "I'm bringing joy and excitement; my profession has built-in therapy."

He finds his everyday life in the performing arts as an act of catharsis – a routine important in stressful situations.

"Not to put down electricians, but I would probably be stressed out and an alcoholic," Nabawi said.

Nabawi is able to find

positivity in performing arts and applied it to every aspect of his life.

"You can hit [new] standards by using the art," he said. He has spent quite some time moving around major cities, such as Boston and San Diego, to experience new cultures and places.

"I learn new things from the kids," Nabawi said.

Nabawi uses exploration as a key to success; one recent accomplishment was learning a children's song in Japanese.

"When [a] test comes, seriously find a song in it," said Nabawi, who suggests memorization of information works best with a little added twist.

"We want people to be exposed to diverse forms of arts and culture," said HOLA



Photo by Andrea Cervone  
Students enjoy guest speaker and award-winning professional storyteller J'Miah Nabawi, at the HOLA Lunch & Learn on March 3.

Director Melody Rodriguez.

With the recent budget cuts, many schools are planning to cut art programs in order to save money.

Nabawi, along with Rodriguez, emphasize the importance art may have in life.

"We have a lot of students who have artistic inclination, and a lot of us need to express ourselves through art," Rodriguez said.

A goal Nabawi is working

toward now is creating the world's largest marimba, an African instrument in the percussion family, where the keys are typically made of wood. Along with the marimba, he hopes to involve as many people as possible.

"[I want to] set the record," Nabawi said.

Nabawi performs in Savannah on River Street, and all students and staff are welcome to attend.

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required for students to complete their degrees is likely to increase as well.

Contrary to earlier rumors, the nursing and education departments will not be cut.

Bill Dawers, an AASU English professor who has been following the crisis, said that the cuts were not entirely unexpected by lawmakers. He said the state ignored the need last year "to make strategic decisions about revenue increases and service cuts."

Dawers said, "The state's political leaders hoped irrationally for a dramatic economic turnaround and relied on across-the-board slashes that simply delayed the hard decisions."

He also commented that further cuts would be required to deal with shortfalls in 2012's budget. The federal stimulus money is slated to run out at that time, leaving a projected \$2.6 billion hole in the state budget.

According to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute in a press release from March 1, cuts to state programs are not necessarily the best means of balancing the budget. The institute, a non-profit research and analysis group, stated that

an increase in revenues would be a more effective way to balance the state budget.

Members of both Georgia's Senate and House Appropriation Committees issued a statement to address similar concerns on March 4.

Georgia State Senator and Higher Education Committee chairman Seth Harp responded to the idea of alternatives.

Harp said, "We don't have a choice. We have to balance the budget," raising taxes to pay for the shortfall in the state budget.

Also on the same day, Gov. Perdue issued a response to the legislature's mandate for \$300 million.

He insisted that two decades of investment in the USG would not be undone while he was in office. He also criticized the idea of raising tuition.

"Somebody ought to be asking the question, 'When are we going to put higher education in the unaffordable category for the average middle class parent?'"

Perdue referred to the legislature's move to appropriate the money a "scare-tactic." He also called the current university system's quality "world-class."

Dr. Michael Toma, AASU economics professor, expressed concern that after

numerous cuts, quality is the only thing left that can be sacrificed.

"The argument of more for less just doesn't fly anymore," Toma said.

After previous cuts at AASU, there are problems with the idea that there are still "productivity gains to be had."

Toma also stated that the repercussions of these cuts on the state's economy could be problematic.

"If we undermine the quality of higher education in Georgia, we potentially and subtly alter the wage earning capacity of the system's graduates," Toma said.

He said that the long-term effects of this would "inhibit growth in Georgia's tax base," harming the state government for years.

In addition to cutting college and university budgets, the BoR has proposals on the table that include the elimination of Georgia's 4-H programs.

There are several petitions circulating online against these cuts. There is also an official demonstration day scheduled for March 15 in Atlanta, where protesters will march on the state capitol building.

Several students expressed similar sentiments that an increased sales tax on tobacco and alcohol

products is preferable to the proposed budget cuts.

"They aren't talking about taxing tobacco or alcohol, even though people will still buy them if they did. Some people will not be able to afford the tuition hike, the student fees, the money to transfer to another school, so this could really jeopardize a lot of people's futures," said freshman Major Falon.

Freshman Kwame Phillips also weighed in.

"I think they should go to tobacco and alcohol for the money they need to raise. To me, there's no sense in taking from higher education. They're cutting from our knowledge, and they're basically telling me to buy cigarettes rather than get an education," Phillips said.

Freshman Vernesha Brown is concerned about her major being cut.

"They'll really be limiting freshmen with this. If they cut my major, there are only three other Georgia schools that offer it, so I'd be in big trouble."

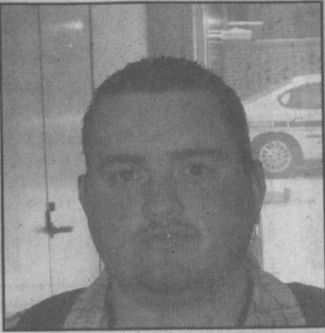
AASU students will also hold a multi-institute rally on March 11 from noon-2 p.m. at the corner of Abercorn Street and Mall Boulevard. This event is free and open to the public.

Campus Life

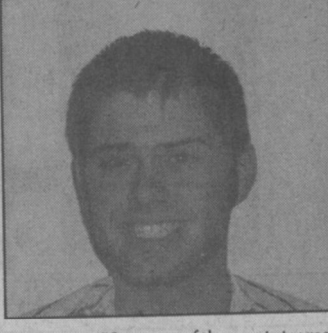
Reported by Joshua Guallett  
Staff Reporter

Voices on Campus

"What would you do to solve the budget cuts at AASU?"



"Fundraisers."  
Dung Nguyen, biology, senior



"Cut some of the sports teams."  
Eric Cassell, speech pathology, freshman



"Have a statewide mandatory \$50 education charge."  
Danae Smith, undecided, freshman



"I would raise the tuition and unsubsidize repeat classes. Also, there should be a penalty for late drop classes."  
Lindsey Tests, economics, senior

Get more opinions at [www.theinkwellonline.com](http://www.theinkwellonline.com)

Six by Six

Six students answer in six words.

"What do you do to budget your own money?"

"Don't always eat out every day."  
Yinessia Miller,  
public health, junior

"I spend less than I earn."  
Dziyana Nazaruk, public health,  
postgraduate

"I budget responsibly by paying attention."  
Jeremy Brown,  
computer engineering, freshman

"Decrease debt, strict allocation of spending."  
Rene Bright, nursing, junior

"I budget my bank account regularly."  
Andre Scott,  
public health, junior

"Don't spend money on stupid stuff."  
Sarah Ester,  
nursing, senior

Do you agree? Or are they way off? Visit [www.theinkwellonline.com](http://www.theinkwellonline.com) and click the Campus Life tab, then weigh in with your opinion on this week's topics.

Editor-in-chief position is available

The Inkwell is now accepting applications for editor-in-chief.

Applications are in the MCC building outside of the Inkwell office Room 202

You must be a student during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

For more information:

Office of Student Activities  
MCC Room 201  
Phone: (912) 344-3252  
[tony@tonymorris.org](mailto:tony@tonymorris.org)  
Application deadline: April 9, 2010

SGA | FROM PAGE 1

corner of Abercorn Street and Mall Boulevard from noon-2 p.m.

All faculty and students are encouraged to participate.

In other news, SGA President Tamer Amer appointed and the senate approved Sen. Eric Brown as the new Senate Whip.

Brown appointed Ida Benson-Jaja to the faculty senate sub-committee for scholarship reviews.

SGA took a group photo in front of the fountain in between Gamble and Hawes Hall to put on its web site.

Slater said the picture will be available in the next two weeks. To view the photo, visit [http://www.armstrong.edu/Students/activities\\_and\\_orgs/student\\_government\\_association](http://www.armstrong.edu/Students/activities_and_orgs/student_government_association).

The next SGA meeting is scheduled for March 22 in Solms Hall Room 108 from noon- 1p.m.

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the main dining room for students, will be located on the first floor of the Student Union.

AASU's Dining Services will offer an all-you-care-to-eat dining plan for each meal in The Galley.

The Galley will have a large grill and a pizza oven and will offer home-style, vegetarian options, specialty and ethnic entrees. There will also be a salad and breakfast bar, frozen desserts and pastries with special presentation dishes cooked as students order.

See the document which states the new mandatory meal plan cost on the back page.

Know a news story we should cover? E-mail the the news editor at [news.inkwell@gmail.com](mailto:news.inkwell@gmail.com).



EDITORIALS  
& OPINIONS

The Inkwell welcomes and invites letters to the editor. All submissions must be less than 350 words, and they must be signed. E-mail your submission to [inkwell@armstrong.edu](mailto:inkwell@armstrong.edu).  
Opinions expressed in op/ed columns or in editorial cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper.  
The Inkwell reserves the right to edit for grammar and spelling.

## Cramming it in their mouths

## An all-you-can-eat buffet of madness

The Inkwell Editorial Board

Beginning next fall, students at AASU who live on campus will be required to purchase a \$600 meal plan. Any student with a current meal plan knows that even a \$400 meal plan is very difficult to eat up in a single semester. Taking away the students' right to choose their meal plan is an ill-disguised means of increasing student fees.

Students who live on campus are required to have a meal plan of \$400, \$600 or \$800 per semester—their choice. They purchase food with their Pirate Cards and can add money to this de-

clining balance whenever they need to.

In order to remain on campus, students must replenish this balance every semester, whether their previous balance is gone or not. While fall semester funds do roll over to spring, any meal plan balance remaining at the end of spring semester will be forfeited without any chance of a refund.

Because of this, all students who live on campus suffer a net loss. Almost no student on a meal plan is able to finish off the entire balance by the end of one semester. Students are purchasing cases of energy drinks and bags of candy just so their money will not be lost.

They buy gratuitous amounts of food that they could never possibly consume themselves and then sell the food to other people who do not have meal plans.

In addition to this "food-scalping," other strategies students employ to use up their meal plans is to buy other people things to be kind.

These strategies can result in both over-inflated lunch rushes and, on occasion, the total disappearance of an entire item.

Thanks to students who buy bags of food and drinks just to get money off their Pirate Cards, it is not uncommon for the AASU dining services to be completely cleared of its chips, soda, milk or other such items. This, combined with line inflation, often causes students, who truly wish to use the AASU dining services for the intended use of filling their bellies instead of draining their balances, to be disillusioned and turn away from taking advantage of the dining services entirely.

By increasing the cost of the AASU meal plan to a mandatory \$600, there will be even more massive clear-outs of food and even longer lines. Numbers of students "scalping" their meals will also likely increase.

The increased cost of meal plans added to housing may not only turn students away

from the lunch line, but away from the university as well.

With the potential budget cuts around the bend, how many students can AASU afford to lose? One of AASU's most attractive features is that it is an economic choice, and what starts with the increased cost of the meal plans could soon turn into a slippery slope.

The fact is that students as a whole don't want to pay much for a meal plan.

Students were disappointed when the mandatory meal plan was increased from \$300 to \$400 two years ago, and most students today get by on the \$400 plan, currently the cheapest option.

The average meal at the cafeteria, without buying extra to relieve one's balance, comes to about \$5. There are 16 weeks in the spring semester including finals week, and the cafeteria is open every day during this time except for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Since the cafeteria is closed on the weekends, 16 weeks is equivalent to 80 total days of service. On a \$400 meal plan, students have to spend at least \$5 every day in order to efficiently use their meal plans.

Not all students wish to eat at the cafeteria every day. Regardless of a student's personal opinions about the quality of the food, eating at the same place every day is simply not desirable. While it is true that a student meal plan can also

be used at Quizno's and Starbucks, it is an inevitability of human diversity that not everyone has the same tastes. Students who do not eat \$5 worth of food from the AASU dining services every day will have to either spend even more in the following semester or lose their money.

Under a \$600 meal plan, students will have to spend at least \$7.50 every day. Those who do not like to see good money go to waste either have to eat more or lose more money.

Trying to avoid the freshman 15? Forget about it. AASU is forcing their students to eat more.

Of course, AASU does not really expect students to eat this much food. Raising the cost of the housing meal plan is just a way for the school to make more money. Instead of increasing the student-housing fee directly, AASU is simply stuffing food into students' mouths to force more money out of their pockets.

A good education and a place to live are important things that have a direct result of a student paying his or her college tuition. Money that is taken off what a student does not use from his or her meal plan, however, just vanishes into thin air as far as the student is concerned. If the university wishes to increase the cost of student meal plans, it could do so in a manner that would not force the students

to take such a loss.

AASU could make arrangements for the meal plans on students' Pirate Cards to be accepted at more places, such as McDonald's or Domino's. Campus residents shop at Kroger all the time. Is it possible to make a deal with Kroger so that Pirate Cards are accepted there?

Under the meal plan contract, students are also unable to transfer any money from their meal plan to any other balance on their Pirate Card. While money can be added to a student's meal plan any time, none can be removed.

Students should be able to transfer their meal plan money towards "Bookstore Bucks," "Dining Dollars," "Pharos Cash" or "Pirate Cash." If the university wishes for the students to use the dining services, why not let students take back the money that they don't use on their meal plans at the end of each semester? The remaining money could be used to pay off university violations, buy books, put toward tuition or even toward students' next semester meal plan if they wish.

While the future Student Union's Galley may soon yield more feasting options for students, both denying students the freedom to choose the size of their meal plans and forcing them to be obligated to consume unrealistic quantities of cafeteria food is wrong.

Don't choke!

**DINING SERVICES**

**AASU**  
ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
A Unit of the University System of Georgia

**NOW OFFERING  
\$600 MEAL PLANS!  
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Graphic by  
Amie Conley

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By Luke Farmer  
Web Editor

Why it matters  
You're getting screwed!

Luke Farmer's views are his own and do not necessarily represent those of The Inkwell Editorial Board.

The Georgia legislature and the USG are going full-speed ahead on the plan to slash \$300-400 million from the higher education budget for fiscal year 2011. As I wrote last week and as anyone not living under a rock knows, that is a gargantuan soul-crushing budget cut. It's not so much a budget cut as it is a budget evisceration.

Disemboweling the budget for our colleges and universities will destroy Georgia's ability to turn out workers prepared for the current and future economy. Furthermore it will horribly stifle the ability of low and middle-income students to pay for the expenses

of going to school, even if they have the HOPE scholarship—and don't count on that existing much longer either.

So not only will this cause students who come into or stay in the USG to go into more debt and work more hours just to scrape by, it will prevent thousands of students from ever even getting the chance to go in the first place.

This budget desecration will at once drastically reduce enrollment while skyrocketing costs and subvert the quality of the education and services received. Defiling the budget to the tune of \$400 million—which comes to nearly 20 percent for AASU—is so mo-

ronically, surpassingly stupid as to appear to have been the pipe dream of some cartoon caricature of an evil, fat-cat captain of industry or cynical politician.

But it's real. And you're getting screwed. This monumental rebuke to sanity, this reversion to the idiotic can still be fought. There are Facebook groups dedicated to the cause. There will be a silent protest today at the corner of Abercorn Street and Mall Boulevard from noon to 2 p.m. There is a group planning a protest rally for March 15 in Atlanta with almost 43,000 USG students pledging to support or attend.

Nearly a hundred positions will be cut at AASU, five majors will disappear, there will be fewer classes and bigger class sizes; there will be less instruction and higher tuition; there will be higher fees and fewer services from them.

So get out there and do your duty to your fellow students, your state and yourself. Protest this; protest this as strongly and as stridently and as irascibly as you can. This is important. This is about the state of higher education's future. This is about the state's future. This is about your future. Don't let the pitch sail by.

Letter to the editor  
Education cuts necessary

Sometimes I think people just don't get it.

In any budget, you have income, and you have expenses. For the states facing education cuts, the math is simple. The recession has put tax revenues in the tank, which means their income is way down. This means that either they have to go into massive debt or cut expenses by cutting services. Yes, this means cutting education programs as well. No one likes cutting education programs, but there simply isn't any money out there for them. This leaves administrators with two options: raise tuition and fees, or cut back on programs. They've

already done the first one, and it hasn't been enough. Yes, it sucks if you are one of the ones who has their program cut out from under them, but it would suck even more if the entire system went under because of budget shortfalls.

It seems people in education think they are the only ones who shouldn't have to tighten their belts. I guess they just don't get it.

Stuart Grosse  
Class of I-don't-know-when-anymore

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SPORTS

**March 11:** Baseball vs. West Liberty State 6 p.m.  
**March 13:** Women's Tennis vs. Barry 10 a.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
Softball vs. Lenoir-Rhyne 11 a.m. at Florence, S.C.  
Softball vs. St. Andrews 1 p.m. at Florence, S.C.  
Baseball vs. Francis Marion 2 p.m.  
Softball vs. Queens (N.C.) 5 p.m. at Florence, S.C.  
**March 14:** Men's Golf at VSU Blazer Invitational at Valdosta, Ga.  
Baseball vs. Francis Marion 11 a.m.  
Softball vs. St. Leo 11 a.m. at Florence, S.C.  
Softball vs. Alderson-Broadus 1 p.m. at Florence, S.C.  
Baseball vs. Francis Marion 2 p.m.  
**March 15:** Men's Golf at VSU Blazer Invitational at Valdosta, Ga.

Women's Tennis vs. Hawaii Pacific 3 p.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
**March 16:** Men's Golf at VSU Blazer Invitational at Valdosta, Ga.  
Men's Tennis vs. Hawaii Pacific 9 a.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
Women's Tennis vs. Fresno Pacific 9:30 a.m. Las Vegas, Nev.  
Men's Tennis vs. St. Edward's 1 p.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
Softball vs. North Georgia 2 p.m.  
Softball vs. North Georgia 4 p.m.  
**March 17:** Women's Tennis vs. St. Edward's 9:30 a.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
Men's Tennis vs. Fresno Pacific 1 p.m. at Las Vegas, Nev.  
**March 19:** Baseball at Lander 4 p.m.  
**March 20:** Baseball at Lander 2 p.m.

AASU athletics face off in array of tournaments

All-PBC honors highlight Pirates PBC tournament

Courtesy of Sports Communications

AASU senior guard Patrick Shokpeka has been named to the All-Peach Belt Conference (PBC) men's basketball team, released at the league's annual banquet prior to the PBC Tournament Final Four in Aiken, S.C.

Shokpeka averaged 15.8 points and 7.2 rebounds per game for the Pirates in 2009-10, ranking fourth in the PBC in scoring and tied for sixth in rebounding. The Lawrenceville, Ga., native also ranked seventh in the league in steals, averaging 1.68 per contest.

He led the Pirates in points scored with 441 and in rebounds with 202. Shokpeka was elected to the third team in a vote of the league's coaches.

AASU has had at least one All-Conference performer in men's basketball since the 2001-02 season. Shokpeka and the Pirates won seven of their last nine games to qualify for the 2010 PBC Tournament and finished the season as the No. 4 seed out of the PBC East Division.

For a complete list of the 2009-10 PBC Men's Basketball All-Conference team, visit <http://www.peachbelt.com/sports/mbkb/2009-10/news/20100305mbballconf>.

In the PBC Tournament's game action, Pirate senior Keron McKenzie hit 10-of-15 3-pointers for a career-high 34 points, but the AASU men's basketball squad came up short in its upset bid of top-ranked Augusta State (ASU) on March 3, falling 83-80 to the Jaguars in the first round of the 2010 PBC Tournament at the Christenberry Field-

house in Augusta, Ga.

The Pirates (12-16) were just the second team all year to score 80+ points against ASU (26-2) and the first to do so on the Jaguars' home floor. AASU came out on fire and stayed hot throughout the game.

AASU took a 41-39 lead into halftime on a McKenzie 3-pointer with 29 seconds until intermission, then after relinquishing that lead in the opening moments of the second half, went back out front on a layup by McKenzie with 15:17 left in the second half, 50-49. A David Pruett 3-pointer built the largest lead of the game for the Pirates, 60-54, with 11:43 remaining.

After a timeout by the Pirates, ASU went on a 11-0 run over the next three minutes, building a 65-60 lead with 8:34 remaining. The Pirates responded with 15-5 run over the next four minutes, capped by another McKenzie three to put AASU up, 75-70, with 4:22 left.

ASU chipped away at the lead, finally tying things up on a pair of Ben Madgen free throws with 1:53 left. The Jaguars would then make five of six free throws over the next minute and a half to build a five-point lead with 12 seconds left.

McKenzie's final 3-pointer of the night — a heave from nearly 30 feet — cut the lead to two, 82-80, with eight seconds left. Alex Smith made one of two free throws and AASU's last chance gasp, a running three from Gabriel Robinson, hit the front of the rim and bounced away, allowing the Jaguars to escape with the victory.

The Pirates made a season-

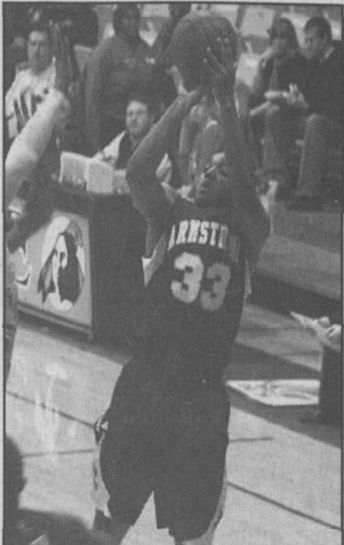


Photo courtesy of Sports Communications  
Keron McKenzie throws up a 3-pointer against No. 1 Augusta State in the first round of the PBC tournament. It was his final game as a Pirate.

high 13 3-pointers and shot 53.7 percent overall from the floor, while ASU shot 52.8 percent from the floor. The Jaguars dominated on the glass, out-rebounding the Pirates 35-22, while enjoying a 23-9 edge in free throws made.

McKenzie's 34 points eclipses his career high of 27, set on Nov. 17 at St. Augustine's, and his 34 points are the most for an AASU player since Jock Page recorded 37 points at USC Upstate on Feb. 5, 1994. The 10 3-pointers made are the most for an AASU player in a single game this decade.

Shokpeka added 20 points as well for the Pirates, while the Jaguars placed five players in double figures, led by Madgen's 19 points and 17 points apiece from Smith and Fred Brathwaite.

Head coach Jeremy Luther's squad loses four seniors from this season's team — McKenzie, Shokpeka, Robinson and Marquise Duvall.

while walking one and striking out a season-high 13. Curette (1-0) got the win for SCAD by pitching a scoreless last inning.

The Pirates resurged against Pikeville, slamming them 11-0 in five innings. AASU's Britton Hammel-Cobb tossed a two-hit shutout to take the win, while Huddleston delivered her fourth jack of the season.

The Lady Pirates swept another doubleheader against Ohio Valley, 10-2 and 9-4. AASU's softball team finished the tournament with a 3-1 record. They jacked three home runs in the game-one, 10-2 win, including a three-run shot by sophomore Heather Walker. Huddleston and Temples added a pair of solo shots, and April Jowers went 2-for-3 with a pair of runs scored and a pair of stolen bases.

Game two had just as much action as the first, with AASU scoring six runs in the bottom of the fifth to take the game 9-4 and leaving their record at 14-6.

Champion Pirates match up against top-5 opponents

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown in Division II women's tennis went the way of top-ranked and two-time defending national champion AASU on March 5 as the Lady Pirates defeated Lynn University (LU), 7-2, at Bacon Park.

The Lady Pirates (11-0) remained perfect in the 2010 season while handing visiting LU (6-1) its first loss of the year.

In last year's regular-season matchup, the Pirates swept all three doubles matches and went up 4-0, but watched LU come back to capture at 5-4 victory. This time, the Pirates did win all three doubles matchups but clinched the match with two quick singles wins to ensure the victory. LU's only points came in two third-set 10-point tiebreaks.

Third-ranked Alida Muller-Wehlau and Martina Beckmann knocked off 10th-ranked Magdalena Ekert and Katerina Jiskrova, 9-7, at No. 1 doubles to start the sweep for AASU. Fourth-ranked Gabriella Kovacs and Sona Novakova dispatched Eleonora Iannozzi and Jessica Yanoff, 8-5, at No. 2 doubles, while 15th-ranked Kathleen Henry and Tina Ronel defeated Christine Johnstone and Tessie Salame, 9-8 (3), at No. 3 doubles.

AASU picked up a pair of quick singles wins to clinch the match as 24th-ranked Beckmann beat 39th-ranked Salame, 6-1, 7-5, at No. 5 singles and Henry beat Johnstone, 6-1, 6-0, at No. 6 singles. Fifth-ranked Muller-Wehlau beat 14th-ranked Ekert, 6-1, 7-6, at No. 3 singles and all three remaining singles matches went to 10-point tiebreaks.

15th-ranked Kovacs notched a 6-7, 7-6, (10-3) win over 37th-ranked Yanoff at No. 4 singles for the Lady Pirates.

LU's 11th-ranked Jiskrova notched a 7-6, 2-6, (10-8) win over top-ranked Novakova at No. 1 singles, while 19th-ranked Iannozzi earned a 3-6, 7-6, (11-9) win over 38th-ranked Ronel at No. 3 singles for the Knights' two points in the match.

Meanwhile, the top-ranked

defending Division II national champion AASU men's tennis team trailed for the first time in 2010 after doubles but swept all six singles matches to claim a 7-2 victory over visiting LU at Bacon Park.

The Pirates (11-0) dropped two of three doubles matches to the Knights (6-2) after dropping just one doubles point in its previous 10 matches, but AASU was able to win four of the six singles matches in straight sets to clinch the match, then take two 10-point tiebreaks for the singles sweep.

At No. 1 doubles, the fourth-ranked duo of Rafael Array and Mikk Irdoja notched an 8-6 win over Alessandro Sarra and Willi Wolfer for AASU's only doubles point. Fifth-ranked Luca Pavanelli and Alex Voirin defeated Matus Mydla and Daniel Regan, 8-6, at No. 2 doubles and Tomas Racak and George Laffey collected an 8-3 win over Eudaldo Bonet and Paul Fitzgerald at No. 3 doubles for Lynn.

Fourth-ranked Irdoja led the way in singles, with a 6-1, 6-3 win over eighth-ranked Sarra at No. 1 singles for the Pirates. Bonet notched a 6-2, 6-2 win over No. 19-ranked Racak at No. 2 singles, while fifth-ranked Array defeated 32nd-ranked Pavanelli, 4-6, 6-0 (10-6) at No. 3 singles.

Mydla knocked off 26th-ranked Wolfer, 6-3, 6-0, at No. 4 singles and Regan notched a 3-6, 6-3, (10-6) win over Voirin at No. 5 singles. 38th-ranked Fitzgerald completed the singles sweep with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Laffey at No. 6 singles.

A day after knocking off the No. 2-ranked team in the country, Division II national champions picked up a 6-3 win over No. 13-ranked California (Pa.) on March 6 in a neutral-site match in Orlando, Fla.

The Lady Pirates (11-0) remained unbeaten on the season and also knocked off its fifth straight nationally-ranked opponent with the win over the Vulcans (8-3). California (Pa.) dropped its first match of

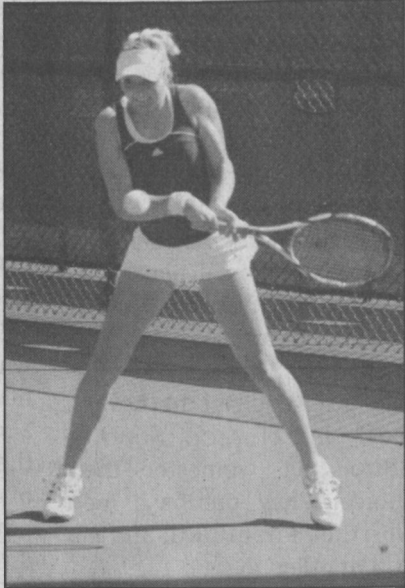


Photo by Zach Gottschalk  
Junior Alida Muller-Wehlau plays a shot against Lynn during the tennis match in Bacon Park on March 5.

its Florida trip, falling to 2-1 in the Sunshine State.

AASU swept all three doubles matches from the Vulcans to take a 3-0 lead. The third-ranked duo of Beckmann and Muller-Wehlau notched an 8-5 win over Julia Cohen and Jutta Bornefeld at No. 1 doubles, while the fourth-ranked duo of Kovacs and Novakova defeated the ninth-ranked duo of Nina Kowalski and Laurie Navarro, 8-0, at No. 2 doubles. 15th-ranked Kathleen Henry and Tina Ronel completed the sweep with a 9-7 win over Anastassiya Zherdeva and Jade Pondicas at No. 3 doubles.

The Lady Pirates clinched the win with a pair of quick singles wins. Fifth-ranked Muller-Wehlau defeated 36th-ranked Kowalski, 6-2, 6-1, at No. 2 singles, while Henry picked up a big 6-0, 6-0 win over No. 29-ranked Alina Stanila at No. 5 singles.

California (Pa.) notched a singles win at No. 6 with Pondicas defeating Alisa Kagukina, 6-4, 7-6. The remaining three singles matches went to third-set 10-point tiebreaks, with the Vulcans taking two of those tiebreakers — Cohen upset No. 1 Novakova, 7-5, 3-6, (10-4) at No. 1 singles and Bornefeld upset No. 15 Kovacs, 4-6, 7-6, (10-4) at No. 4 singles. No. 38 Ronel defeated Zherdeva, 6-4, 4-6, (10-3) at No. 3 singles to cap the scoring for the Pirates.

Pirates continue 2010 Savannah Invitational

By Juan Dorado Staff Reporter

The AASU Pirate baseball team continued its 2010 Savannah Invitational home stand with a gripping 6-4 win against Concord University and 17-8 thumping of West Liberty University.

In the first game, both teams exchanged runs, pushing the score to 4-2. Despite getting out of early jams through out the game; the sixth inning proved to be too much for Thomas Grey, as he was pulled, leaving the bases loaded. The pitching change called for Jonathan Fulghum, who came in and struck the first batter out and induced the inning-ending force-out at second base, coming out of the bases loaded jam unscathed.

The Pirates carried that momentum into the bottom of the seventh, where they pushed across four runs on a bases-loaded walk to Alex Wyche, followed by a bases-clearing double by Chris Zittrouer to give the Pirates a 6-4 lead.

The lead stayed intact for the remainder of the game

as Fulghum worked rapidly through the Mountain Lions' order. Fulghum didn't give the other team a chance to blink as he threw strike after strike, admitting that a rapid pace is a key to his success.

"I always try to work fast, so I can stick to something and be effective on the mound," said Fulghum.

He hurled 3 2/3 innings of hitless baseball, striking out three and walking one, while picking up his second victory of the year.

The Pirate bats came alive in the March 8 contest, compiling 17 hits on their way to scoring 17 runs against West Liberty.

Early on, Pirates starter Blake Culberson seemed to have all his pitches working, tossing five innings of one-run ball, however the sixth proved to be costly for Culberson, giving up three runs on three hits. The junior right-hander turned in a gritty performance, exiting the game with a 5-4 lead.

The Pirate bats countered, pushing across 12 runs in the last three innings, led by Cameron Scott who went 2-3

with three RBI's and Roberts added a 4-6 day with 5 RBI's, while crushing his team leading 4th homerun of the season over the left field fence.

The Pirates bats helped extend their win streak to six, as Culberson collected his team leading third win, pitching 5 2/3. He gave up seven hits and four runs while striking out one and Brandon McCreary picked-up the save, tossing 2 1/3 innings of one-hit baseball.

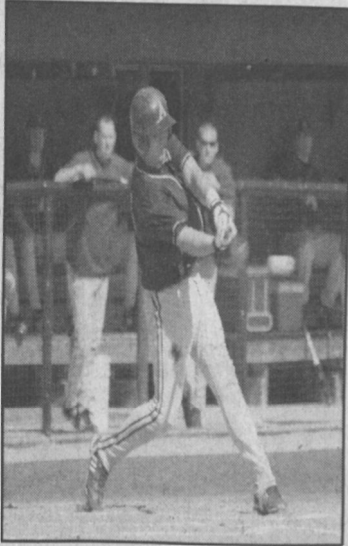


Photo by Hank Sharpe  
John Roberts led the Pirates with five RBI's in the 17-8 win against West Liberty State on March 8.



Photo by Luke Armstrong  
The Pirate softball team managed to split a pair of games with nationally ranked Wingate University, ending the Bulldogs 16-game winning streak.





# Geigermania: Mortal Combat

By Adam Geigerman  
Sports Editor  
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The same dictionary that rendered the above definition of the word miracle, informally defined a god as "a man who is widely admired or imitated."

That's a big deal. Massive. Humongous. Out of this galaxy big.

Ever since the inception of sports and competition, sometime back when giant lizards frolicked about the earth eating each other while cavemen could do a whole lot more, than appear in mind-numbing Geico commercials, gods have roamed the earth.

These are gods in the manner of Encarta's definition, not the biblical or religious sense. Although, as sports become more and more transcendent of themselves, athletes are collecting fans that adorn their memorabilia and merchandise as if they were blasting religious allegiance.

Sports fans in America are still blingin' their iced out cross charms on platinum ropes around their neck, and those frostbitten examples of jewelry, more often than not, seem to be resting on the jersey of some famous athlete from some famous team, almost always accessorized with the newest team hat and pair of Air Jordans.

The church of the Jumpman, Michael Jordan's cult,

"Mir-a-cle (n): something admired as a marvelous creation or example of a particular type of science or skill"

Encarta® World English Dictionary

following is made up of shoe-collector extraordinaires who cannot wait to splurge hundreds of dollars on the newest edition of His Airness' Nike shoe. There are even different denominations in the church of the Jumpman, basketball being the obvious favorite, but Yankee captain Derek Jeter is the high pope of the Swingman sect, a not-so-subtle spin off from Jordan's mega-following. Tiger Woods holds temple on the golf course and until recent scandals has enjoyed a flourishing almost-religious following of his Nike Golf brand name.

What happens when these gods are proven human?

Worlds metaphorically crash down. Sometimes the gods reclaim their high offices atop their respective sports, but often, they remain human.

Gods cannot fall victim to human weakness — that's how the greats are immortalized. The inevitable mortality of human life catches up eventually. Sometimes the gods just fade away by passing the torch to the next big thing — Gretzky to Crosby or Jordan to James.

Other times, it's not so graceful, or easy. Being human hurts, and to some of the greatest athletes in history, ever since the first single-

celled organism made the first athletic maneuver back before time was even kept, the fall is fast, devastating and earth-shattering.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson was the messiah for the Lake Show. Behind-the-back passes, rim-rattling jams and constant dishing up of assists served as his water-to-wines or feedings of the 5,000. He brought glory back to Los Angeles in the form of the Larry O'Brien Championship trophy. It was all snatched back by a three-letter monster that would demand every ounce of his resolve to beat, and even then the odds were trillions to one. His nemesis was no longer the "Hick from French Lick." Larry Bird and his Celtics were no longer relevant, replaced by the HIV virus that was feasting on Johnson's seemingly immortal body.

The 20th century's most charismatic athlete conquered the earth in the squared-circle of the boxing ring, dominating the airwaves from Howard Cosell's microphone. Muhammad Ali crowned himself "The Greatest," and he was. He was a god among men.

Until 1984. "The Greatest" was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, and it was eating him

alive. The cocoon of Parkinson's forced the metamorphosis of Ali from the majestic prizefighter to a trembling shell of himself. The poetic smack-talking orator became a mutter of the past. He could no longer "float like a butterfly or sting like a bee."

The triple-crown king, Lou "Iron Horse" Gehrig was the second coming of Babe Ruth, undisputed god of the baseball diamond. Gehrig fell into mortality at the merciless hands of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease later nicknamed after him. His consecutive-game streak was halted at 2,130, while his disease stole his last breath in 1941.

It's not all bad news for fallen idols; hope is the most beautiful thing in their mythical legendry. Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester threw a 130-pitch no-no. Nothing special there, there have been plenty of no-hitters thrown — over 18 in Red Sox history alone. Only one no-hitter in MLB history has been notched by a man two years removed from chemotherapy. In 2006, Lester was consumed by cancer, and in 2008 he was riding the shoulders of his teammates.

Chicago Bears starting Quarterback Jay Cutler and Georgetown University's leading scor-

## Pirates' Plunder

AASU Sports Trivia, previews and more

By Luke Armstrong  
Staff Reporter



### AASU Sports Trivia

- 1.) What was the longest winning streak the Pirate baseball team had last season?
- 2.) Who leads the AASU baseball squad in the RBI category?
- 3.) Which AASU pitcher is the only pitcher on the roster to have a save and a win so far this season?
- 4.) Who lead the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) in steals and attempts?
- 5.) Who leads the AASU pitching staff in innings pitched this season?

Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

## On the horizon

### Baseball:

March 11



vs. West Liberty State

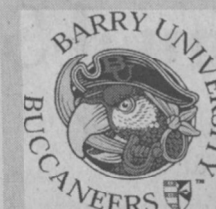
March 13-14



vs. Francis Marion

### Tennis:

March 13



Women's vs. Barry

### Softball:

March 10



vs. Tusculum

March 7



vs. Lenoir-Rhyne  
vs. St. Andrews  
vs. Queens (N.C.)  
at 2010 FMU Patriot Invitational

\*For Spring break game times and locations, check out the Spring Break preview located right under Geigermania on this page.

## Pirate Alumni navigate tumultuous waters as professional athletes

By Adam Geigerman  
Sports Editor  
sports.inkwell@gmail.com

Pirates should be brimming with pride. The AASU men's golf fraternity is celebrating the professional success of two of their brothers.

Former Pirates Chris Wolfe and Chris Epperson are both consistent performers in the lower levels of men's golf's professional realm, and while it isn't exactly the multi-million dollar of the PGA Tour, these two former Peach Belt competitors are making some money.

In fact, Epperson, a 27-year-old Pirate alumnus and former Savannah Christian Raider has appeared in two eTour events in 2010, and he has made the cut in both. The 5'9", 145-lb Savannah native is currently sitting at the second position on the money list for the eTour with \$9,147.82 in winnings in his two events.

The eTour is a developmental tour geared toward preparing men's golfers for the majesty and cutthroat competitiveness of the highest level of professional golf. The eTour has been rearing and shaping its participants for the PGA Tour through a series of tournaments that are centered within a four-hour driving radius of Charlotte, N.C.

The tour awards its top-20 finishers on the eTour money list with an extraordinary opportunity to qualify for the PGA Tour through paying the entry fee for their 2010 PGA Q-School, while a minimum of four players will win exemptions to the PGA Nationwide Tour.

Each of the ultra-competi-

tive 72-hole tournaments conducted by the eTour offers a purse of \$235,000. That pile of dough gets split up among the field of golfers that make it past the 36-hole cut, and each finishing position is weighted differently. It's an easy concept to understand: the higher one finishes, the more money he wins.

Epperson has posted a tied for fifth finish and a tied for 25th finish in his two appearances since the eTour's 2010 campaign began, but he is a seasoned veteran by now. Epperson joined the tour in 2008, finishing with an under-par scoring average of 71.54. He made the cut in three of his five events, winning over \$5,000 that year.

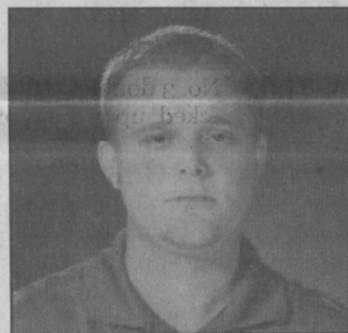
Success came a little more easily in 2009, producing a \$12,698.33 income for the former Pirate. He made the cut in more than half of the tournaments that year, finishing 6-for-11 with a nearly 2-under par 70.45 scoring average.

In his 522 total holes, he sank two eagles that year with 116 birdies rattling around in the cup. Thirteen of his total 29 total rounds shattered par with scores in the 60s. A round in the 60s will turn any golfer, amateur and professional green with envy.

Epperson's most recent campaign through the eTour's Savannah Quarter's Classic on Feb. 24-26 bested his former Savannah Christian High School teammate, Brian Harmon, a University of Georgia graduate and former Bulldog golfer. Epperson posted a 1-over par score to tie for 25th, while Harmon finished with a 2-over tied for 33rd.

Wolfe's path to the glories of professional golf has not yet produced the stellar finishes he became used to in college golf.

The Warner Robbins, Ga., native produced instant success as soon as he entered the NCAA Division II Men's Golf world as an AASU



Chris Wolfe, a recent graduate of AASU, is trying his luck at the 2010 eTour.

Pirate. As a freshman in 2005-6, Wolfe competed in 11 total tournaments for the Pirates, coming off their second-place finish in the NCAA Championships the year before.

He fired a 74.00 scoring average, winning one event, the GEICO Direct Invitational on March 11-12, 2006. He won with a birdie on the fourth play-off hole, sealing a victory that undoubtedly led to his capturing of All-PBC team honors. His mercurial rise continued through 2006-2009, carding nine top-20 finishes in 2006-7, and earning Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year honors as a junior in 2008.

Wolfe was selected to compete in the 2008 Fuji Xerox USA vs. Japan Collegiate Golf Championship, where he finished 3-0.

The eTour has not been as friendly to Wolfe in 2010. He has competed in the first two events, missing both cuts. His nearly 6-over par scoring average is fluttering at 77.25. That would be a perfectly acceptable scoring average for the casual amateur golfer but not for the professional tours.

Wolfe's 72-holes this year have rendered 11 sparkling birdies, and more are sure to come in this young season.

Epperson and Wolfe are local treasures in the Savannah community; they are heroes that Pirates and Savannahians continue to support and lend their fanhood to. There is no limit to the potential of these two athletes, as more glory is sure to come on the pristine greens and difficult courses that litter the professional world of golf.

## Spring Break spreads Pirates across country

By Adam Geigerman  
Sports Editor  
sports.inkwell@gmail.com

The nationwide countdown 'til Spring Break has been initiated for every college and university, thanks in part by the looming spring weather. Some schools' breaks have already begun, but AASU's will take place the week of March 15-19, awarding its students the St. Patrick's Day celebration with a day off.

Pirate athletics can't afford to take time off from the competitions, despite the break from classes. There are championships to be won, after all.

Men's golf will travel across the state to Valdosta, Ga., to do battle on the manicured greens of the Kinderlou Forrest Country Club in the Valdosta State University (VSU) Blazer Invitational on March 14-16. The depth of the competition at VSU's home tournament is stifling; it features an array of the top-25 ranked men's golf teams, according to the Golf World/Nike coaches' poll.

The Pirate baseball program looks to compete in six games against two different teams in eight days. March 13-14 will feature the Pirate squad against one of its Peach Belt Conference (PBC) foes, Francis Marion. The three-game series will begin at 2 p.m. on March 13, and continue into a doubleheader on March 14, with games at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The second leg of Pirate baseball's Spring Break will take on another PBC rival, Lander University. That series also features three games in two days, beginning with a 4 p.m. first pitch on March 19. March 20 will close out the away series for the Pirates with games at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The Lady Pirates' softball team won't enjoy much of a break from anything, as they look to compete in

nine games in six days. The Lady Pirates start out with a doubleheader against Tusculum on March 10, with games at 2 and 4 p.m.

Up next for the softballers, a road trip to Florence, S.C., in order to challenge themselves at the Francis Marion University Patriot Invitational on March 13-14. The Pirates' opponents include Lenior-Rhyne, St. Andrews, Queens (N.C.), St. Leo and Alderson-Broaddus.

Finally, the Lady Pirates return home to face PBC enemy, North Georgia on March 16. The doubleheader begins at 2 p.m. and will wrap up with a second game at 4 p.m.

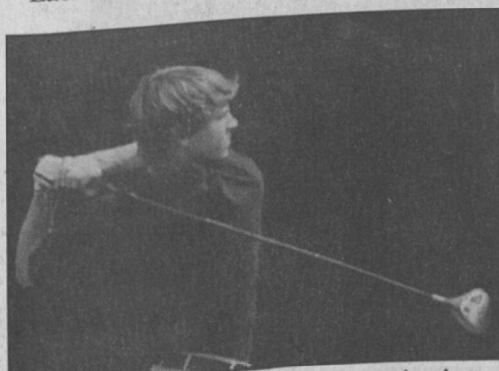
Pirate tennis aims to illustrate domination of Division II men's and women's tennis by traveling to Las Vegas. Both squads will compete against a collection of West Coast teams as they look to defend their consecutive championships.

Both teams will compete against their counterparts from Barry, Hawaii Pacific, St. Edwards and Fresno Pacific in the five-day affair. If you are in Sin City, be sure to show your Pirate fandom.

Spring Break is just another week of competition for the Pirates' spring athletic programs, so show your support and cheer on the AASU student athletes.

### AASU Sports Trivia Answers

- 1.) During the 2009 season the AASU baseball team went on a 18-game winning streak from March 2-24.
- 2.) John Roberts leads the team with 23 RBI so far this season. The next closest to Roberts are Chris Zitttrouer and Michael Price, who are tied at 16.
- 3.) Bryan Roby is 1-0 and has one save to go with his 2.96 ERA in 24 and 1/3 innings pitched.
- 4.) Alex Wyche has 22 steals on 25 attempts and currently leads the PBC in both categories.
- 5.) Thomas Gray leads the team and the conference in innings pitched with 34 and 2/3 innings worth of work.



Photos Courtesy of Sports Communications  
Chris Epperson has raked in more than \$20,000 during his three years on the eTour.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

By Maggie Stone  
Staff Reporter

Thrill seekers on Spring Break can continue the party this year at the Savannah Music Festival (SMF). The three-week music festival begins March 18, no sooner than Savannah's St. Patrick's Day revelry wraps. SMF is an annual cross-genre arrangement of musical performances focusing primarily on jazz, blues, classical, bluegrass, rock and Americana. According to SMF executive director, Rob Gibson, last year the festival's impact on Savannah's economy was second only to St. Patrick's Day. In addition, SMF also brings arts education programs to over 20,000 students annually. For their upcoming celebration, potential to achieve these two goals may be far greater than in years past. A lot of time, money and energy go into the entire



Renowned alt-rockers Wilco, pictured here at their Chicago studio in 2004, play at Johnny Mercer Theater on March 25 as part of the 2010 Savannah Music Festival.

year it takes to produce the festival. With that hard work in mind, even Gibson remains grounded in giving credit to the audience that makes the celebration possible.

"People often come up to me, expressing their appreciation for my festival," he said. "I always respond the same way – 'this isn't my festival; it's yours.'" Gibson said that the City

of Savannah contributed \$150,000 last year. In return, SMF generated \$1 million in tax revenue back to the city. For attendees, this means their ticket purchase both warrants a good

time and supports the local economy. Beyond the lineup of local talent, 2010's ticket boasts more A-list performers than years past. Big-name acts this year include: energetic classical pianist Lang Lang, blues powerhouse Ruthie Foster, country western star Patty Loveless, award-winning Malian musician Bassekou Kouyate, jazz acoustic bassist Ben Tucker, fierce classical performers the Emerson String Quartet, indie rock duo She & Him (comprised of M. Ward and Zoëe Deschanel) and laid back alt-rockers Wilco, to name a few. Original productions for 2010 include the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Chinese piano sensation Lang Lang, the 5th annual Piano Showdown, the 17th annual American Traditions Competition, the All Star Swing Summit/Swing Central Finale, Ben Tucker's 80th birthday celebra-

tion and SMF's originally conceived chamber music series, Sensation. Although most of these shows are already sold out, some students may have luck finding tickets for Wilco or She & Him through eBay or Craigslist. However, the major drawback would be the exponentially higher price of the ticket. Anyone who can't afford the whopping price of a last-chance ticket can still listen to this year's artists free-of-charge at SMF's Web site. So when the always-too-short Spring Break reaches its end, this fest will be a great way to let the party continue.

For more on SMF, including a schedule of events and streaming radio, visit [savannahmusicfestival.org](http://savannahmusicfestival.org).

# Annual St. Patrick's Day parade turns 186

By F. Reese Shellman III  
Staff Reporter

If there's one thing Savannah does well, it's being Irish. It's a part of the essence of the city, so it's no surprise that St. Patrick's Day is the day around which Savannah's calendar revolves. The celebration has been known to see as many as 400,000 participants in the past – a number that's triple the city's population. Though this year the festival is on a Wednesday, dampening the turn-out, it's still estimated that there could

be 250,000 people present for the festivities. The parade is generally the focal point for most people's experiences, but every year the parties carry on well into the day after. River Street and City Market are anticipated to be this year's hot spots. River Street is always busy, but alterations in alcohol policies in City Market will likely draw crowds. City Market will have live outdoor entertainment starting March 16 and continuing into St. Patrick's Day. River Street, referred to by organizers as the "festival zone," will require the

purchase of wristbands – \$5 each – in order to purchase and drink alcoholic beverages. This measure was present last year as well to cut down on underage drinking and raise revenue. Parking will be made available across the river at the Trade and Convention Center, and ferries will provide transportation to River Street. In order to attract more business during the middle-of-the-week festival, bars and clubs are booking entertainment for the weekend prior to the holiday itself. Expect entertainment to start March 12 evening and carry on through March 13.

It will resume on St. Patty's eve with contests, more entertainment and, naturally, plenty of cold drinks. Of course, the showpiece of the occasion isn't the parties. The 186th annual Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off March 17 at 10:15 a.m. It will start on Abercorn Street between Hall and Gwinnett and wind around downtown, eventually finishing at Madison Square. The parade is preceded by the ceremonial mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 8 a.m. Furthermore, AASU spirit has a place in the festivities this year. Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in conjunc-

tion with the university's 75th anniversary, AASU is building and operating a float in this year's parade. Chris McCarthy, a member of the Computer Science Department's staff, is in charge of the float's creation. As his first year in charge of the project, he wants to associate AASU with the Savannah community. McCarthy said that it's a way to spotlight the school. With at least a quarter of a million people anticipated at the event, it's a perfect opportunity. "It's a way to reach out to a lot of people at one time." The specifics of the float

are a closely guarded secret, but McCarthy was willing to give out hints. "It's a blend of the 75th anniversary with pirates and Irish—it's a big float." He said curious students should keep an eye out. Though the date has yet to be announced, sometime this week there will be a trial run on campus.

For more on the parade, including seat reservations along the route, go to [savannahsaintpatricksdays.com](http://savannahsaintpatricksdays.com).

# Wordsmiths duke it out –literarily

By Travis Morningstar  
Staff Reporter

The pen is proven to be truly mightier – not to mention, stranger – than the sword as Opium Magazine's very own Literary Death Match (LDM) shocks and awes downtown Savannah on Thursday, March 11. The shenanigans take place at barbecue hangout Blowin' Smoke at 514 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tickets to the 8 p.m. event are \$5 for students. LDM attempts to delve further into the established eccentricities of literature by introducing humor-centric, performance-based elements to readings of four authors' works, all while being critiqued at the sharp end of a panel of judges' rapier wits. The helter-skelter form results in a thoroughly riveted audience lingering on every word. "To me, the overall idea of Literary Death Match is to make literature fun and accessible, and the entertainment factor is quite important," said Zach Powers, Emmy Award-winning writer and participating reader in the competition. For some of the readers, the competition presents an unconventional challenge – taking the reclusive writing experience and thrusting it into the spotlight.

"I'm going to read something short, simple and playful. I'm hoping my excitement comes through when I perform the piece on Thursday," Powers said. "I figure that if I show up and have fun, the audience will have fun along with me." The informal nature of LDM lends itself to what some would consider "graphic" content and language; something largely deemed "arbitrary" to Thursday's readers. "If you come to a literary event, especially one boldly named 'Death Match,' prepare to be challenged," Powers said. This particular episode on March 11 marks the first time Opium Magazine has invited Savannah to join the fray which promotes literature as a brilliant, unstoppable medium. For most of Thursday's competitors, the focus rests less in pressure and more in entertainment value. As for Savannah's maiden voyage on this absurd ship, Powers said, "I do hope the writers who perform are able to show that there's more to the Savannah literary scene than Flannery O'Connor." Novelist Marianne Stahl, a reader for LDM, expressed similar concerns about Savannah's image when she said, "Did they watch an episode of 'Ruby' or 'Paula

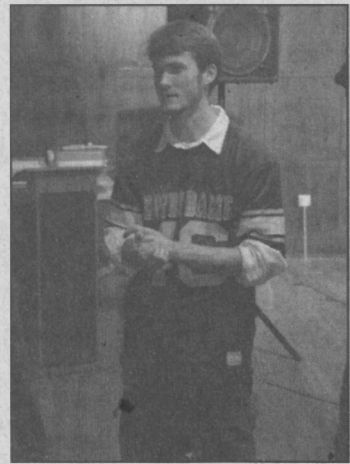


Photo courtesy of Zach Powers  
Emmy-winning Savannah writer Zach Powers will perform at the Literary Death Match at Blowin' Smoke on March 11.

Deen' and decide the competition could use some fried food?" Despite fierce competition, Stahl is optimistic and levelheaded, even in the face of possible literary "death." "I am scared and I expect to be blown out of the water, but I don't mind," she said. "It should be fun." LDM is well-known for its masterful choice of expertise, combining eclectic talents in humor and intellect, with past panels including Todd Barry and Moby. The "Death Match" strikes a balance between a humble reverence of the written word and an often outrageous spoken performance, a smoldering amalgam that the judges are obligated to stoke and prod with genuine

critique and amusing discussion. "I've judged plenty of talent competitions before," said Shawn "J. Chris" Christopher, gregarious radio personality and a judge for the event. "The spoken word in Savannah is no joke; I know for a fact that they're going to bring it. But I also recognize that this is art and is some of these people's livelihoods, so they really need to bring their all to the competition." Christopher also addressed the importance that lies in attending events such as this, in an attempt to transform Savannah into a staple destination of entertainers and culture. "I hope a lot of people come out because this is great for the city," he said. "You just have to get out to events like this for them to happen more."

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## THINK music

On Thursday, March 11, country music star Josh Turner performs at the Civic Center at 8 p.m., tickets are \$27.50 to \$42.50. At 9 p.m., San Francisco pop-rockers Sandwiches play a cover-free show at the Wormhole on 2307 Bull St.

Decatur, Ga., Irish folk musician Moria Nelligan brings her fiddle to the Sentient Bean for a free 7 p.m. show with Savannah Ceili Band on Friday, March 12. At 9 p.m., reggae group Tubby Love and the Trio of Love join the Soular System at Live Wire Music Hall on 307 W. River St., tickets are \$5. Also at 9 p.m., electronica/dub group Greenhouse Lounge opens for Greenville, S.C., electronica-jam band the Malah at the Wormhole, tickets are \$10. Wilmington, N.C., metal bands Weedeater and ASG join psychedelic hard rockers U.S. Christmas for an 11 p.m. show at the Jinx on 127 W. Congress St.

On Saturday, March 13, legendary '80s power rockers REO Speedwagon join Edwin McCain for an 8 p.m. show at the Civic Center, tickets range from \$45 to \$55. Athens, Ga., bands Dead Confederate, Futurebirds and Twin Tigers take the stage at the Jinx at 10 p.m. Also at 10 p.m., southern rockers TurtleFolk play at Live Wire Music Hall, tickets are \$7.

Harrisburg, Pa., performer Koji brings his mellow pop-rock sound to the Sentient Bean on Monday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

The Dave Turner Band stops by Live Wire Music Hall for a rock-filled evening on Tuesday, March 16. The show begins at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$5. Sinister Moustache and Kalibur open up for oddity troupe Hellzapoppin at the Wormhole at 10 p.m., tickets are \$12.

## St. Patrick's Day

The annual Greening of the Fountain starts off a week of Irish revelry in Savannah. The green dye starts pouring at the Forsyth Park fountain at noon on Friday, March 12. Also in Forsyth Park, the St. Patrick's Day Rugby Tournament, one of the country's largest, kicks off at 1 p.m. The annual March of Dimes Shamrock Run starts its 5k round at 6 p.m. in City Market. At 7:30 p.m., Irish performer Tony Kenny joins comedian Joe Cuddy and the Dublin City Dancers in a one-off show at Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church on 50 Diamond Causeway, tickets are \$35.

On Saturday, March 13, the Tara Feis Irish Festival starts at 11 a.m. in Emmet Park. The free, family-friendly event celebrates Irish culture with live music, dancing, crafts and food. The Rugby Tournament returns at 1 p.m. Tybee Island's family-friendly Irish Heritage Parade begins at 3 p.m. on Butler Ave.

The Celtic Cross Ceremony, begins at 1 p.m. Sunday in Emmet Park.

On March 16, Celebration on the River features live music and entertainment. At 6 p.m., the sounds of bagpipes and Celtic drums rock from Molly Macpherson's on 311 W. Congress St. for the 2nd annual Bagpipe Tattoo.

The 186th annual parade begins Wednesday, March 17 at 10:15 a.m. on Abercorn Street.

By Macey Tryon  
Staff Reporter

# Masquers usher in Spring Break with new comedy

Just in time for Spring Break, the Masquers theatre troupe presents the humorous and witty "Bright Ideas" by Eric Coble.

The play presumes that in the eyes of today's parents, their child's developmental skills, education and overall growth is of the utmost importance.

Genevra, played by Barbara "Babs" Erwin, and Josh, performed by Matt Saul, feverishly enroll their toddler into Bright Ideas Early Childhood Development Academy in hopes of great success for their child.

As the overzealous parents try to mold their son, Mac, into a baby genius, the rigorous process begins to test the strength of their marriage, as well as their relationship with their son. "Bright Ideas" is a hilarious, fast-paced show," director Meg Meadows said.

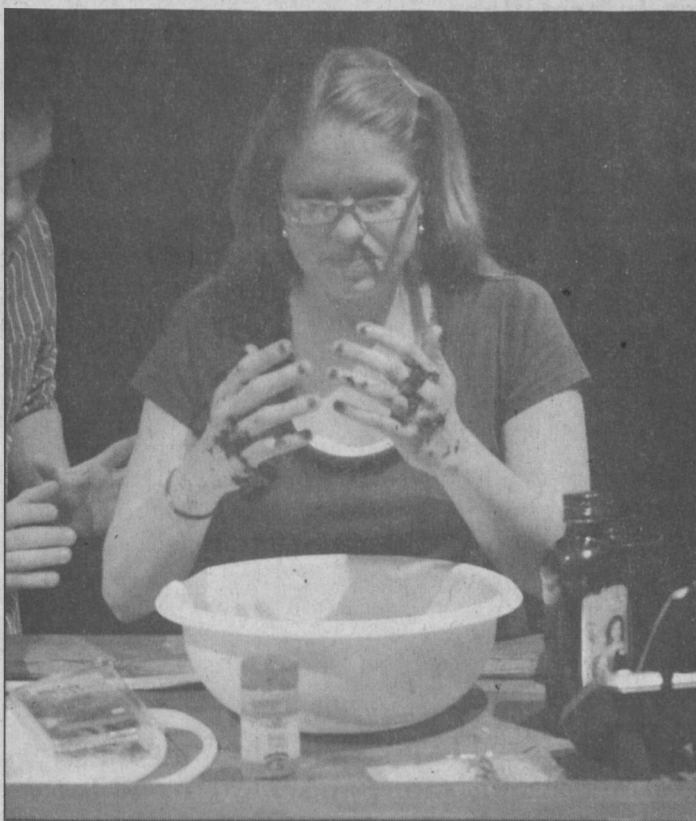


Photo courtesy of Ethan Camera

Graduating senior Barbara Erwin stars in the Masquers' production of Eric Coble's "Bright Ideas," directed by theater major Megan Meadows.

"It lends itself well to being done in a black box and drawing an audience."

The Masquers have been in rehearsal since the end of

January and have worked days on end to hone their performance. But Meadows said that her crew consists of experienced actors who

didn't need much guidance.

As an actor it is of great importance to bring lines from the script to life.

"One of my biggest goals has been to try making my character an honest one — by living in the moment," Saul said via e-mail. "Live theater is full of spontaneity, and it's really just a combination of moments. And I really want to take my character and make him as honest to each moment as I can."

It didn't take long for Saul, a freshman theater major, to make a name for himself with the Masquers. His first performance was in the 2009 production of "Love Is a Time of Day."

"I hope they [the audience] all enjoy it and realize that the most important thing you can do for your child is love them and care for them," Saul said via e-mail. "The rest will come."

When asked if she thought that today's parents correspond with the parents represented in "Bright Ideas,"

Erwin said, "Absolutely! Today's parents have schedules lined up for their kids. This show is just to remind parents to let their children play and let them learn from their mistakes."

Erwin, a senior who plays the lead female role in "Bright Ideas," has been performing since she was a kid.

"I hope the audience leaves knowing that their family is really important and the people you love are the easiest to get mad at," Erwin said. "But you need to realize that they are always going to be there, and you need to find time."

"Bright Ideas" opens Thursday, March 11, and runs until Sunday, March 14. All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Jenkins Hall Black Box Theater. Seating is limited, so reserve tickets ahead of time. General admission is \$10 and free for students with a valid Pirate Card.

## Alt-rockers Dead Confederate play Jinx

By Amanda Dickey  
Staff Reporter

Athens, Ga.-based rock band Dead Confederate is set to play at the Jinx on March 13. Formed in 2006, the band consists of Hardy Morris (vocals, guitar), Brantley Senn (bass), John Watkins (keys), Jason Scarboro (drums) and Walker Howle (guitar). This psychedelic, alternative rock band attracts audiences with its appealing grunge sound, heavy and driving guitar rhythms and intensely versatile vocals ranging from mellow melody to wild and powerful shrieks.

"I like the sad, melancholy feel of the vocals. Morris's voice reminds me of Jim Morrison of the Doors, with its mellow feel and tone," said Christine Bishop, a Savannah Tech student and fan of the band. "I'm looking very forward to seeing

them at the Jinx, as other obligations have made me unable to attend their Athens shows."

Another fan of Morris' singing is Philip Palmer, vocalist/guitarist for the Savannah band Port City Music.

"Sometimes I don't like it when the singer feels like he has to compete with the guitars, but with Morris' voice it's cool to hear his smooth, lazy croon over a distorted guitar," he said.

Dead Confederate released their debut album, "Wrecking Ball," on Dec. 16, 2008, on Razor & Tie and the Artists Organization. The album includes the popular single, "The Rat."

"They are a critically acclaimed band that could appeal to the St. Patrick's Day crowd. They're not too heavy but not out of character with the Jinx," said Jinx owner Susanne Warnekros. "They blur the lines between Athens Jam

Psychodelia and Americana. We wanted to try something new."

The members of Dead Confederate, Senn, Watkins, Scarboro and Howle grew up in Augusta, Ga., and were childhood friends. Morris' older brother and band manager, Dawson Morris, had the following to say about the band's style: "I think it's really unique and crafty rock music that is presented in the most honest way possible. Big, dark, and abrasive at times, yet beautiful too."

When asked about this particular tour, Dawson Morris said, "This tour is a quick mini-tour for them to begin playing the new material they recorded in New Jersey last month. Savannah seemed like a great place to play en route to St. Augustine, where the really cool festival called Harvest of Hope is located. After Savan-

nah and St. Augustine, they'll be heading to Texas to play at an annual music conference. I'm confident the tour will be really fun for them since they'll be playing some new material for the first time live."

It was Savannah's thriving underground metal scene that lured Dead Confederate to the Hostess City.

"We have some friends in Athens who introduced the Dead Confederate guys and I to some of the metal bands from Savannah, and I actually spent some time at the Jinx last year having drinks with Andrew of the band Black Tusk. The band has played there before, and I think we all felt like the room would fit the 'vibe' of Dead Confederate more than the other venues in town," Dawson Morris said. "[The Jinx] is a true rock club, and that's where Dead Confederate feels most comfortable."



Photo courtesy of Dawson Morris

Athens, Ga., band Dead Confederate, pictured above, plays the Jinx on 127 W. Congress St. at 10 p.m. on Saturday, March 13.

Dead Confederate's music can be heard online at: [myspace.com/deadconfederate](http://myspace.com/deadconfederate)

## Vocal students luck out in upcoming 'master class'

By Christina Rust  
Staff Reporter

Accomplished singer, songwriter and actress Leenya Rideout teaches a vocal master class at AASU March 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Four students will sing for Rideout and then receive feedback. The performance, "Acting the Song," deals with the dramatic aspect of singing.

Rideout is more than qualified to teach "Acting the Song." Her accomplishments include appearing in a Broadway production of "Cyrano de Berger-

ac," as well as a role in the film "Mona Lisa Smile." Currently, Rideout is a voice professor at New York University (NYU). Rideout earned the Johnny Mercer Award and the silver medal in the Savannah Music Festival's "American Traditions" vocal competition.

"I am so excited to have the opportunity to perform for Leenya. Her knowledge of music theatre is something that I look forward to her sharing. She is very talented and for her to work with each of us it really means a lot," said senior vocal major Brittney Hargrove, who

hopes to earn a masters degree in music theater at NYU. "She has had a career on Broadway and the slightest glance into what she has been a part of is fascinating."

At the beginning of the performance, Rideout will sing three songs, each demonstrating a different type of "acting the song." Her first song will be in the form a musical, the second from an opera and the third is a cabaret style song. Each student will then perform one song.

Dr. Lucinda Shultz, who selected students for the master

class, said it can be intimidating for students to have their performances critiqued in front of an audience.

"I choose students who are not only fairly well advanced in their ability to sing technically well, but also because they are emotionally prepared to respond," she said.

Rideout, who has taken many master classes in the past, understands why students get butterflies. "Sometimes it can make you feel really nervous because you want to impress the 'master,' but I have figured out that's not re-

ally what it's about. It is more about artists sharing ideas," Rideout said. "I'm just going to offer up suggestions, but they may not work for everyone."

Joining Hargrove on stage for "Acting the Song" are Ashley Adams, Lakeisha Williams and Melissa Flummerfelt. Flummerfelt and Hargrove both received first place honors in the 2010 National Association for the Teachers of Singing competition in Athens, Ga., in February.

All students are encouraged to come see a master at work right here at AASU.

## 'Wonderland' revival truly takes viewers down rabbit-hole

By Eric Roberts  
Staff Reporter

When I saw the trailers for Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" popping up around the Internet, I was worried. There's a nasty pattern behind restored franchises in cinema, especially when a resurrected film is taken in an "artistic direction." After attending the 3-D spectacle on its premier, I have to say that my initial assumptions were wrong — for the most part, anyway.

"Alice in Wonderland," in case you haven't already heard, isn't a remake of the old Disney film, or even the first or second book of the "Wonderland" set. Rather, it's elaborate fan-fiction.

Burton and screenwriter Linda Woolverton ornately

created their own branch onto Alice's saga by extending the story's timeline — bringing Alice in not as a child, but as a returning teen.

The story essentially begins at a "secret" engagement party for Alice (Mia Wasikowska) and her bumbling suitor Hamish Ascot (Leo Bill), where characters close to Alice are introduced in passing, later to be mirrored by the significant denizens of Wonderland.

When the snotty Ascot awkwardly proposes to Alice, she flusters and leaves in a rush, following the White Rabbit that's lurked around her throughout the party. After a considerable amount of running she — you guessed it — falls down a rabbit-hole and into Wonderland.

Mirroring the first few sequences of the original story,



Leah Gallo/Courtesy Disney Enterprises, Inc./MCT  
Mia Wasikowska stars as the titular character in Tim Burton's 3-D remake of "Alice in Wonderland."

she finds herself shrunk and in a strange world, surrounded by talking creatures (all of whom are brilliantly voiced) and psychotic caricatures of people, specifically The Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp). There is a problem though — the rebels of Wonderland believe they've

found "the wrong Alice."

But don't worry — I won't spoil the rest of the story for you.

No exaggeration, the first bits of this movie are phenomenal. The plot is vibrant and quirky; the creatures look like they belong in their settings. The score by Danny Elfman is quite lovely, and the characters are distinct, well-fleshed and cast perfectly — Stephen Fry as the Cheshire Cat, Alan Rickman as the Blue Caterpillar, and Helena Bonham Carter as the Red Queen, just to name a few.

The problem with the movie is that the only truly amazing parts are in the first half, maybe the first three-quarters. As the film progresses, the Hollywood action starts to sneak in and photo-bomb. Everything builds up to this hollow action

climax that frankly just doesn't feel like it needs to be there. That's not to say that it's boring, but it does have an air of being unnecessary.

All in all, this movie is certainly worth seeing, if not for the plot, loveable cast and inspired art, then at least to see Depp's "Braveheart"-like sword-slinging at the end.

★★★★  
3.5 out of 5 stars

A Walt Disney Pictures production

Directed by Tim Burton  
Starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter

Rated PG for fantasy action/violence involving scary images and situations and for a smoking caterpillar.



### 2010-2011 University Housing Renewal Mandatory Meal Plan Information

The opening of the new AASU Student Union on campus allows for August 2010 new options in dining for students living on campus in an apartment. Armstrong Dining Services will offer an all-you-care-to-eat dining plan each day for each meal in the *The Galley*, which will be the main dining room for students and conveniently located on the first floor of the Student Union. *The Galley* offers a large grill and pizza oven, home-style, vegetarian options, specialty and ethnic entrees, large salad and breakfast bar, frozen desserts and pastries with special presentation dishes cooked as you order.

*The Galley*\* will open from:

7:30 am – 8:00 pm Monday-Friday  
9:00 am – 10:00 am, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Saturdays  
10:30 am – 1:30 pm, and 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm Sundays

\*Hours are subject to change based on student need

All students living in an on-campus apartment will be required to purchase the 5 meal per week (all-you-care-to-eat) plan that includes \$150 Dining Dollars for Fall semester and for Spring Semester. There is NO MEAL PLAN REQUIREMENT FOR SUMMER!

**TOTAL COST OF PLAN = \$600 per semester**

The meal plan portion can also be used in Daily Perks and in Quiznos at the meal equivalency rate. Dining Dollars can be used in the new Convenience Store (located in the AASU Student Union) or at Daily Perks or Quiznos. The 5 meal per week (week is in 7 day increments) plan will not roll-over (you must eat the 5 meals within each week) and the \$150 Dining Dollars must be spent within the semester they are purchased.

I attest that I have read and understand the 2010-2011 Mandatory Meal Plan Information detailed above. I understand that I will be required to have a \$600.00 mandatory meal plan for Fall and Spring semesters.

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Students received this form in their 2010-2011 Housing Renewal Application from their Community Assistants (CAs).



### Benefit Performance and Art Auction

**Thursday, March 25**

**7:30 p.m.**

**AASU Fine Arts Auditorium**

**Free and Open to the Public**

**Donations will be accepted for  
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**Sponsored by:**

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### 2009-2010 Masquers Upcoming Plays



By Eric Coble

March 11-14 at 7:30 p.m.

Trying to fast-track their baby Einstein to lifelong success, over-indulgent parents Geneva and Joshua feverishly launch a madcap flurry of felonious plans just to enroll their toddler into Bright Ideas Early Childhood Development Academy - the Ivy League of child day care. Reckless comedy ensues. Audience discretion is advised for language.

**Secrets of a Soccer Mom** - opening April 8th

**Coastal Empire NEW Play Festival** - opening April 29th

FREE admission w/PirateCard. Visit Fine Arts Box Office.



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